

Dr. C. T. Canfield
Rec'd Sept 29.
Ans Oct 6 /

California
Monterey, Sept. 1, 1866.

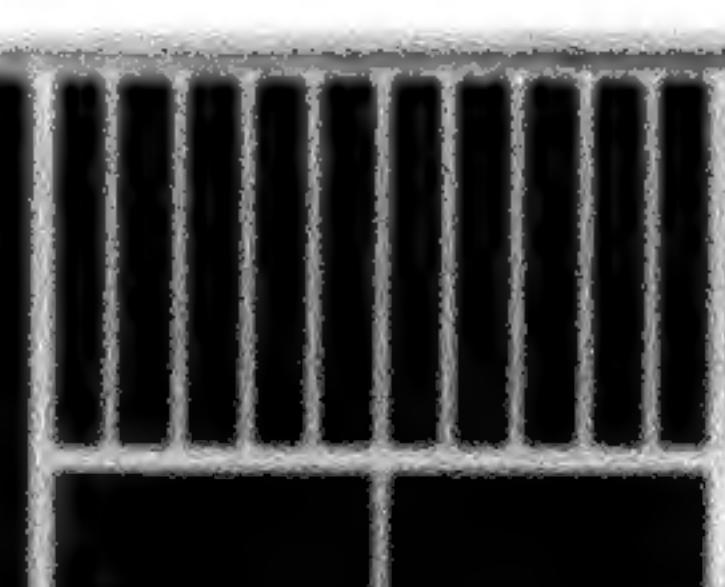
Dr. Engelmann;

Dear Sir, I received two days ago your favor of Aug. 8, and hasten to reply.

I fear that you will be disappointed with me & that your expectations will not be realized, inasmuch as my locality, Monterey and vicinity, ^{been} has most carefully searched by all the botanists who have ever landed on this Coast.

^{Haenke} Hartweg, Nuttall, Kenzie, Donglass and others, made it their headquarters here, when in California, & left but little that was new for those of us who arrived here later. I set to work, when I first came here, to collect the plants of this ^{vicinity}. After doing so I find that I have nothing that has not been collected (forty times) before, except a few plants that have, undoubtedly, been introduced within a few years.

Having collected all the land plants within my reach, I commenced collecting "Sea-weeds" & shells & fishes, as well as birds' nests & eggs & other desirable objects.



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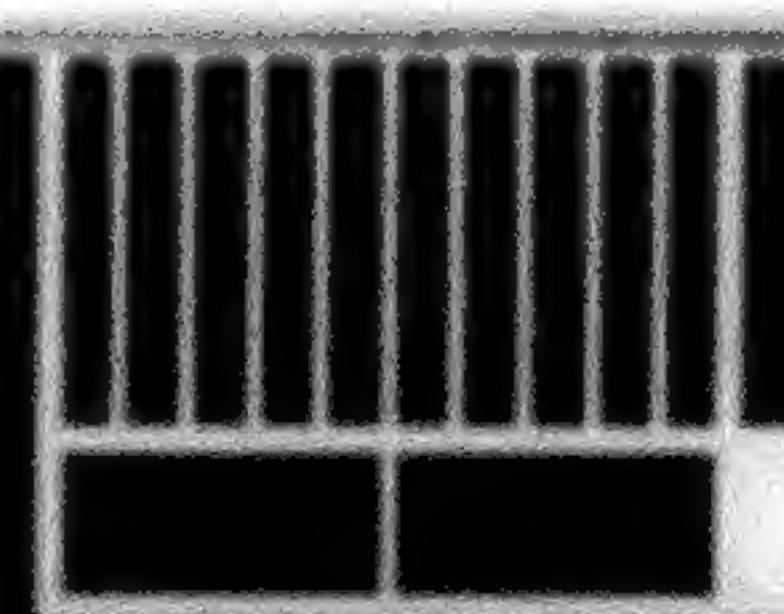


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of Natural History. In these latter departments I have found the field much less explored than in that of Botany, & believe that I shall have the pleasure of adding something to the stock of knowledge heretofore existing -

Our friend Bolander, who has done me the favor to introduce me to you, looked over my plants pretty carefully, not long since, but did not find anything interesting or new in those families that are his specialities, - the Gramineae & Acrogens. He inquired also about the Coniferae & Pinaceae, & I communicated to him all the information about them that I possessed; - since when I have made no additions to my collections in these families.

I never have collected any specimens here of Vitis, although I have seen it growing in other parts of the State. The nearest locality to me, where any indigenous grape-vine is said to grow, is in the mountains of San Antonio, some 90 miles S. E. from Bonton. But I have no specimens from there & I don't think any botanist



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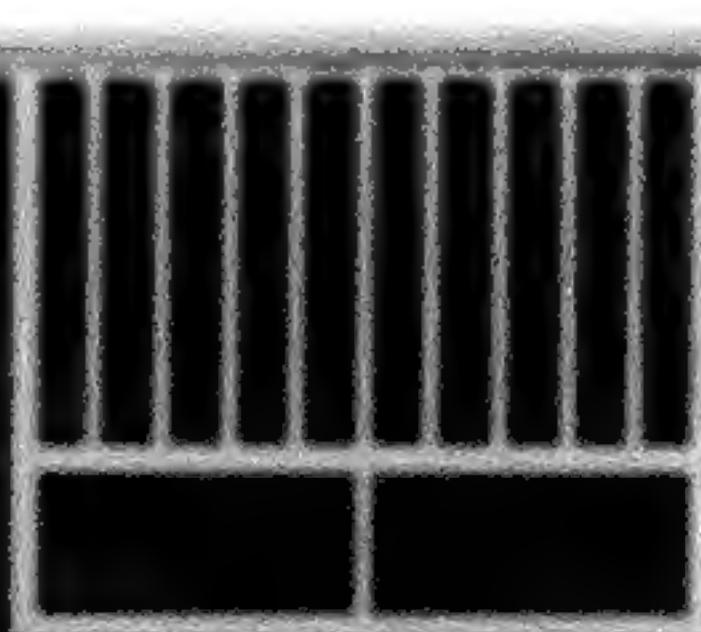
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has ever collected any there. — I have one species of Leavenworthia; at least, I suppose there is only 1 species among the specimens. It is abundant here. — I have never collected Isoetes. One species of Alisma; A. Plantago, I suppose. — Two species of Cenchraria. — One species of Nuphar ^{abundantly} grows in a pond some 25 or 30 miles from here. I saw it, one time, as I passed by in the stage-coach, but had no time nor opportunity to collect it. It has for a long time been on my list of desiderata, & I hope I may be able to secure some specimens before long.

San Luis Obispo is too far away from me, & is out of my reach. — I must explain to you that I am practising Medicine & Surgery for a livelihood; & being poor & having a wife & children to support, I am obliged by the stern law of necessity to make everything subordinate to my profession; & it is only during the scraps of leisure that I can steal from a laborious but not very lucrative profession that I can cultivate natural science. If I were able pecuniarily, I would be delighted to spend all my time in these fascinating studies. On



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account of poverty, also, I have never attempted to make a general botanical collection; & of plants as well as of shells, I keep specimens only of those of my own collecting. Therefore I do not exchange with other collectors; but I am always happy to contribute materials of any kind, as far as I may be able, to be ~~the~~ studied & elaborated by those who have the time & means for doing so. — My collections are all sent to Prof. Baird, to be forwarded to those who will be likely to make the best use of them; — plants to Prof. Gray; shells to Dr. Carpenter, Eggs & nests to Dr. Brewer, &c.

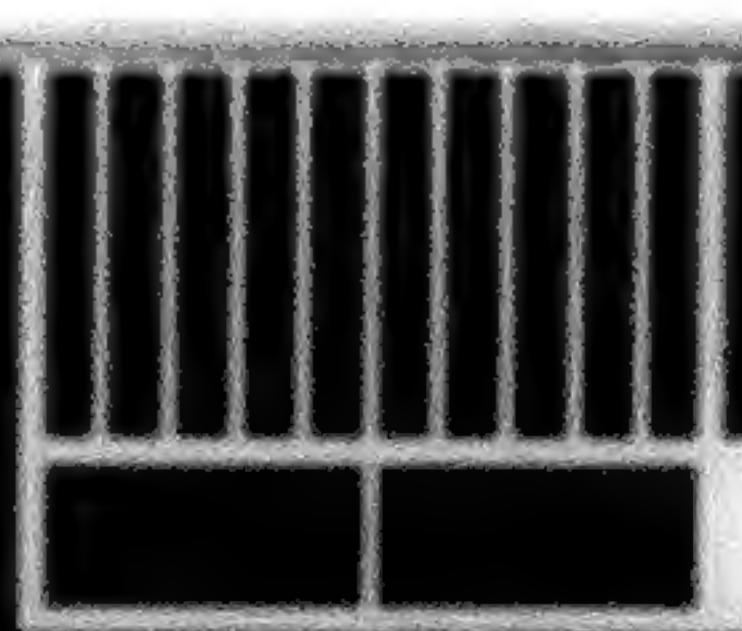
A living vulture, Leathartes leahyanius, I sent the other day direct to the London Geological Soc., and it arrived there safely. In Botany my correspondent is Prof. Gray, as I said; but I shall be happy to send you what you desire, as far as I may be able.

In return, I am anxious to get books, memoirs, monographs & other publications (in English, French, Latin or Spanish) — anything & everything that will instruct me about the objects that I collect. I labor under the disadvantage of not owning nor having access to the later publications on these sciences. Prof. Baird undertakes to furnish me the Smiths. publications, but aside from these I am almost without descriptive works. —

If you will write me by what mode of transportation to send you packages, I will do what I can to supply your desiderata. — Would you receive them through the Smithsonian Inst. ? Or will I send by Wells, Fargo & Co's Express ?

In conclusion permit me to say that having for a long time been acquainted with you as a botanist, I am happy to commence thus an epistolary acquaintance that I hope may be satisfactory to ~~both~~ you & of mutual advantage to us both. Expecting to hear from you immediately on the receipt of this,

I remain, Yours sincerely,
Leobert A. Leamfield



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Rec'd May 1st
on same day

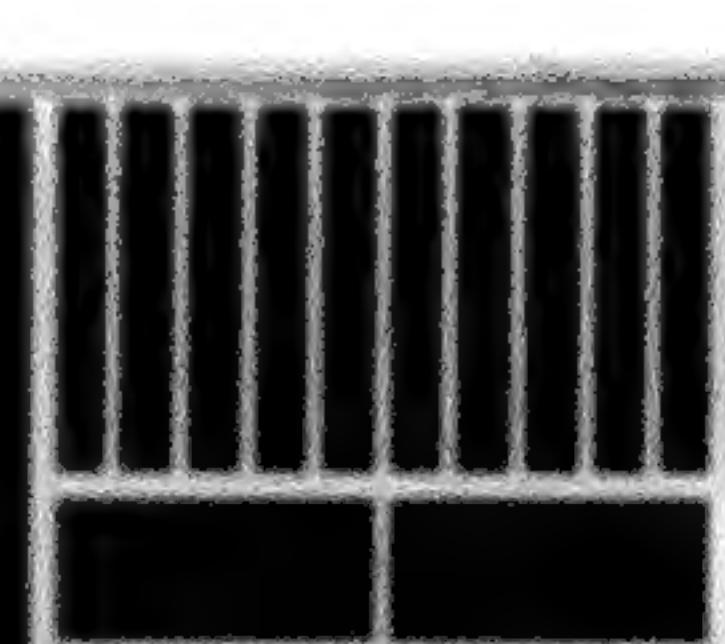
Monterey, Cala., April 23,
1871.

Dr. Engelmann;

Dear Sir, I was
very much gratified to hear of your
safe return from Europe; and pre-
sume that you have been able to
settle many doubtful botanical questions.

I have not seen Prof. Bolander
lately, nor had any correspondence
with him. At the time he was pre-
paring his botanical report for the
Cal. Biol. Survey I sent him specimens
of all my Calif. plants and notes on the
doubtful ones. About some of them I
received answers, but quite a number
are yet undetermined.

As to the pines, I perfectly agree with
you that there are but two species
growing near Monterey; - *P. murrayi*,
Dougl., and *P. maricata*, D. Don, although
the cones of *P. murrayi* vary greatly in



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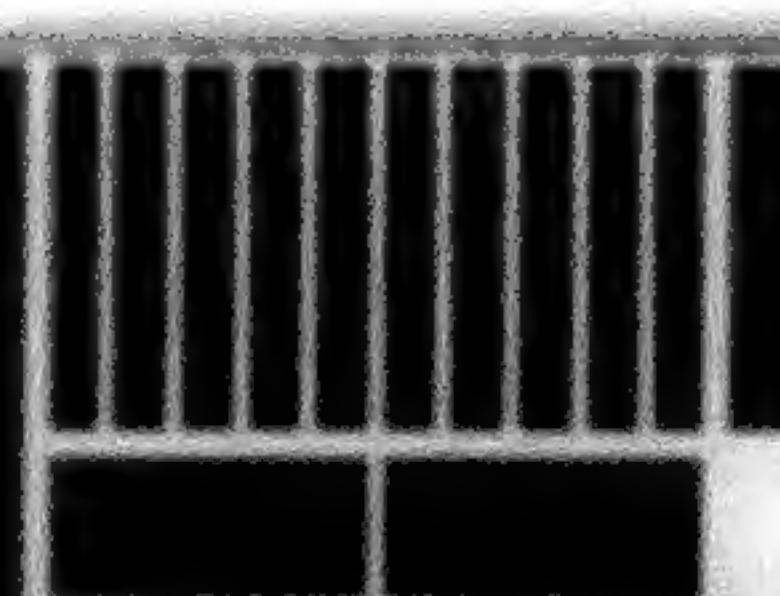
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size, form & relative dimensions. When mature they are all more or less gibbous, some much slender than others & and some very strongly tuberculated, & while others are very smooth. I would send you a suite of varieties; but you tell me that you "have plenty of material from our friend Bolander". Perhaps you mean, of P. tuberculata, Don, only.

I do not remember, positively, whether I have ever seen so slender cones of insignis as you figure & describe; but my impression is that I have, & that they ^{were} immature - I will take pains to examine specimens in the woods in a day or two and settle the point.

The insignis grows over the whole of the Cape Called Punta de los Pinos, Pine Point or Point Pinos, and 2 or 3 miles back from salt water.

The muricata near Monterey grows only



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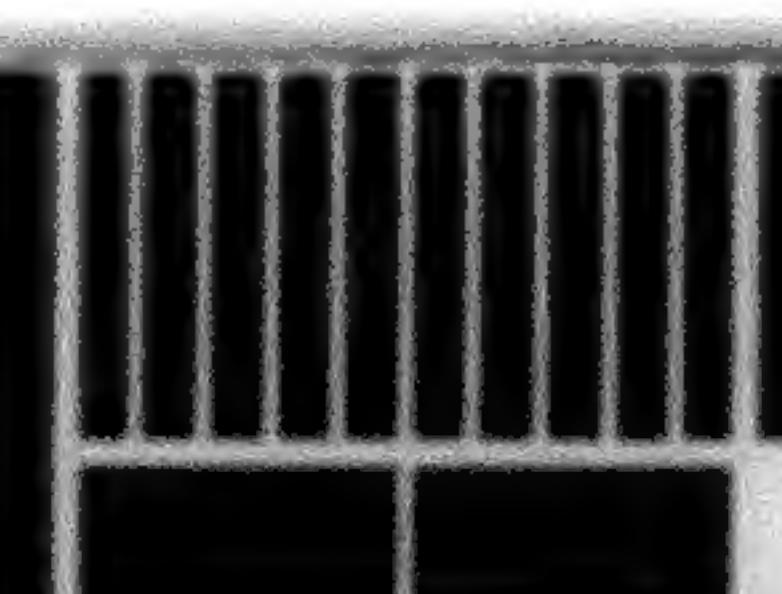
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on the west or ocean side of a sterile
ridge of decomposed granite about
2 miles from the ocean, in clusters of
trees scattered over an extent of almost
a mile long & $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile wide, and surrounded
on all sides by the insignis. Near San
Luis Obispo the uricata grows on the
summit of white hills composed of soft,
infusorial rock of the Miocene tertiary
— as I observed in passing there in
1854. The same white Siliceous rock
is abundant in this vicinity, but the
uricata does not grow on it here.

We have a species of Yucca growing
wild in the mountains in the S. E. part of
this County 60 miles from this town, — the
plant which the Spanish call mescal.

I saw the same plant on dry rocky hills
in many localities along the road up the
Coast from Los Angeles to this County.

Unfortunately, I could not preserve
any specimens; but my recollection of it is



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that the leaves were linear, 12 to 15 inches long by $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide, strongly carinated, smooth and mucronate (but without any fibers along the edges), in thick tufts with a slope from the center 8 to 13 feet high. I saw only the dead scapes of the previous season, containing some of the dried fruit, which appeared to be capsules rather than pulpy fruit, though of this I could not be certain.

The branches were few in number and short; the dry fruit $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter. In some localities very abundant.

The natives gather the scapes when they are still tender and roast them in the ashes, considering them a luxury. I will try to get a supply of specimens, which, if I obtain them, I will take great pleasure in forwarding to you. I have a species of Polystachys that Bolander could not determine.

Did he send you a specimen of it? If not, perhaps I better send you that & some other plants for determination?

Very truly yours,
Albert A. Canfield.



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